Author's response to reviews

Title: PTPRC (CD45) is not associated with multiple sclerosis in a large cohort of German patients

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PDF covering letter
Reviewer's report
PTPRC (CD45) is not associated with multiple sclerosis in a large cohort of German patients

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Dr Lisa F Barcellos Reviewer:
A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests Level of interest:
Accept after discretionary revisions Advice on publication:

Although this report shows confirmation of a previously reported negative finding, the analysis of the PTPRC locus in another large independent MS dataset is of interest to the MS research community. It would be helpful to include HLA-DR2 status of patients and to incorporate this into the statistical analyses, if possible.

WE INCLUDED THE HLA-DR2 status of the MS patients.

Also, even though the patient and control populations have been described elsewhere, a few details would be helpful so that the reader does not have to refer to the earlier paper.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PATIENT AND CONTROL COHORT HAS BEEN ADDED:

Have other polymorphisms within the PTPRC locus been reported in public databases and/or the literature? This should be addressed in the discussion.
While the 77C>G transition in exon 4 may not be involved in MS, it is not possible to rule out this locus entirely without a more detailed examination of additional SNPs using haplotype analysis, etc.

THIS POINT HAS BEEN INTEGRATED IN THE DISCUSSION:

Finally, it would be nice to see a brief summary in the discussion of PTPRC studies in other autoimmune diseases.

THE AUTHORS DO NOT AGREE IN THIS POINT.

Competing interests:
None declared.